DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0220/158505.1

Application No.: 09/845,808

Office Action Dated: September 21, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method of accessing a first computing device from a second computing device comprising:

connecting to a first computing device from a second computing device using a communication protocol, comprising determining if the communication protocol is one of a predetermined plurality of protocols, and if the communication protocol is one of the predetermined plurality of protocols, using the communication protocol in establishing the connection between the first computing device and the second computing device, and if the communication protocol is not one of the predetermined plurality of protocols, using a unified communications protocol in establishing the connection between the first computing device and the second computing device; and

controlling one of the first computing device and the second computing device from the other of the first computing device and the second computing device in a reversible connection.

- 2. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an instruction to reverse the connection and using the one computing device to control the other computing device.
- 3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein connecting to the first computing device comprises:

sending a connection request from the first computing device to the second computing device;

receiving the connection request at the second computing device; and establishing a connection between the first and second computing devices responsive to the connection request.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising authenticating the first computing device.

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5. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising entering one of a listening mode and a control mode at the first computing device and entering the other of the listening

mode and the control mode at the second computing device.

6. (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising toggling from the listening

mode to the control mode at one of the first computing device and the second computing

device, and toggling from the control mode to the listening mode at the other of the first

computing device and the second computing device.

7. (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising reversibly toggling the first

computing device between the listening mode and the control mode and reversibly toggling

the second computing device between the listening mode and the control mode.

8. (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising requesting permission from one

of the computing devices to the other of the computing devices to toggle from one of the

listening mode and the control mode to the other mode.

9. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein controlling one of the first computing

device and the second computing device using the other of the first computing device and the

second computing device comprises receiving an input at the other computing device and

sending the input to the one device, the one device processing the input.

10. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising releasing control responsive to

an input received at one of the first computing device and the second computing device.

11. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein connecting to the first computing device

using the second computing device is responsive to one of a help request, a training session

initiation, and a network administration task.

12. (canceled)

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13. (currently amended): A system for accessing a first computing device from a second computing device comprising:

a communications network for two-way communication between the first computing device and the second computing device using a communication protocol; [and]

a reversible controller which allows control of one of the first computing device and second computing device, using the other of the first computing device and second computing device; and

a protocol generator that determines if the communication protocol used to connect the first computing device to a second computing device is one of a predetermined plurality of protocols, and if the communication protocol is not one of the predetermined plurality of protocols, one of retrieves and generates a unified protocol and uses the unified protocol in establishing the connection between the first computing device and the second computing device.

- 14. (original): The system of claim 13, wherein the connection is a reversible connection.
- 15. (original): The system of claim 13, further comprising a transmitter for sending an instruction to one of the first computing device and second computing device, from the other of the first computing device and second computing device.
- 16. (original): The system of claim 15, further comprising a receiver adapted to receive the instruction sent to the one of the first computing device and second computing device, from the other of the first computing device and second computing device.
- 17. (original): The system of claim 15, wherein the communications network is capable of establishing a connection between the first and second computing devices responsive to the received instruction.
- 18. (original): The system of claim 15, wherein the controller controls the one of the first Page 4 of 10

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computing device and second computing device, by the other of the first computing device and second computing device responsive to the received instruction.

- 19. (original): The system of claim 13, wherein the first computing device and the second computing device each comprise a listening mode and a control mode, and one of the first computing device and second computing device enters into one of the listening or control modes and the other of the first computing device and second computing device enters into the other of the listening or control modes.
- 20. (original): The system of claim 13, wherein the one of the first computing device and the second computing device is reversibly toggleable between a listening and a control mode and the other of the first computing device and second computing device enters into the other of the listening or control modes.
- 21. (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the controller toggles from the listening to the control mode at the one of the computing devices and from control mode to the listening mode at the other of the computing devices.
- 22. (canceled)
- 23. (currently amended): The system of claim [22] <u>13</u>, further comprising an element extractor that extracts at least one element from the communication protocol, the additional protocol based on the at least one element.
- 24. (currently amended): A computer-readable-medium having computer-executable instructions for performing acts comprising:

connecting to a first computing device using a second computing device using a communication protocol, comprising determining if the communication protocol is one of a predetermined plurality of protocols, and if the communication protocol is one of the predetermined plurality of protocols, using the communication protocol in establishing the connection between the first computing device and the second computing device, and if the

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communication protocol is not one of the predetermined plurality of protocols, using a unified communications protocol in establishing the connection between the first computing device and the second computing device; and

controlling one of the first computing device and the second computing device using the other of the first computing device and the second computing device in a reversible connection.

- 25. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 24, having further computer-executable instructions for receiving an instruction to reverse the connection and for using the one computing device to control the other computing device.
- 26. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 24, having further computer-executable instructions for performing acts comprising:

sending a connection request from the first computing device to the second computing device;

receiving the connection request at the second computing device; and establishing a connection between the first and second computing devices responsive to the connection request.

- 27. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 24, having further computer-executable instructions for authenticating at least one of the first computing device and the second computing device.
- 28. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 24, having further computer-executable instructions for entering one of a listening mode and a control mode at the first computing device and entering the other of the listening mode and the control mode at the second computing device.
- 29. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 28, having further computerexecutable instructions for toggling from the listening mode to the control mode at one of the

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first computing device and the second computing device, and toggling from the control mode to the listening mode at the other computing device.

- 30. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 24, having further computer-executable instructions for reversibly toggling the first computing device between a listening mode and a control mode and reversibly toggling the second computing device between the control mode and the listening mode.
- 31. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 24, having further computer-executable instructions for requesting permission from one of the computing devices to the other of the computing devices to toggle from one of the listening mode and the control mode to the other mode.
- 32. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 24, having further computer-executable instructions for controlling one of the first computing device and the second computing device using the other computing device comprising performing the acts of: receiving an input at the other computing device; sending the input to the one device; and processing the input at the one device.
- 33. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 24, having further computer-executable instructions for releasing control responsive to an input received at one of the first computing device and the second computing device.
- 34. (original): The computer-readable-medium of claim 24, having further computer-executable instructions for connecting to the first computing device using the second computing device, responsive to an instruction comprising one of a help request, a training session initiation, and a network administration task.
- 35. (canceled)